(vi) Need to give more concessions to NRIs and others for bringing gold from abroad

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Sir, the recent announcement of the Hon. Finance Minister permitting NRIs to bring 5 Kg of gold after paying 15 per cent of import duty is welcome by the people. However, there are certain impediments in the scheme.

The NRIs, after selling the 5 Kg of gold in India, have to pay income-tax and there is no exemption for this. However, there is no provision for the NRIs to have a resident back account in India to invest the sale proceeds of such transactions. Even if the Government allows the NRIs to open and operate such is taxable as per Income-tax Act whereas the interest on FCNR Account is not taxable at all. The buyers of gold from NRIs will be subjected to payment of income-tax and hence many people will not buy the gold. Thus the gold import scheme will not produce the desired results.

In the alternative, the tourists from India and abroad should be permitted to bring gold to India on payment of nominal custom duty. If India tourists and tourists from abroad are permitted to bring gold to India at least one kg per held on payment of nominal duty, then there wil b sudden fall in the bullion market and the gold reserve will also increase. Hence I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to consider such proposal.

(vii) Need to provid funds to the State Government of Kerala to meet expenditure on subsidy on rice

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, hon. Prime Minister while participating in discussion on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address, has assured the nation that food articles distributed through the P. D. S. will continue to have subsidy. There is an increase of 88 paise per kg for the rice distributed through P. D. S. in Kerala as the issue prices of rice of rice went up. Central Government have refused to give subsidy for this 88 paise increase and Kerala Government is bearing this additional burden. In an year, this comes to nearly Rs. 100 crores. As rationing is statutory in Kerala, I request Central Government to adequately assist Kerala to bear this additional burden.

(viii) Need for early completion of muilti-purpose project at Kamla and Bagmati rivers, Bihar

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr.Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I am placing this matter before this august House:– A scheme to construct the multi-purpoe projects on the rivers Kamal and Bagmati originating from Nepal and flowing into the Indian sub-continent have been lying pending for consideration for a long time. With the construction of these projects on *Sishan Pan* and *Dhumal* places, adequate supply of electricity can be made available to Eastern, Uttar PradeshWest Bengal, Orissa and Assam at cheaper rates. At the same time a major part of Bihar will be saved from devastating floods for ever. The construction of these multi-purpose project will augment the development of agriculture and enable thousands of families to earn their livelihood. As such I request the Government to establish contact with the Nepalese Government and complete their construction at an early date to enable the lakhs of people to get an opportunity to move towards development.

13.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjusted for lunch till fifty minutes past fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assemled after Lunch at fifty-four minutes past Fourteen of the clock